LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment Reference Model Review

Thank you for participating in the peer review of LANDFIRE successional models for the Rapid Assessment. Your informed feedback is critical to the successful development of robust models that incorporate the best available science and knowledge to-date.

Instructions

Contact your regional lead

Contact the lead for your region of interest (see contact information at www.landfire.gov) and let them know you'd like to review models. They will send you data files for your region, including a zipped folder containing a folder for every PNVG modeled. Within each PNVG's folder, you will find:

- three VDDT files (*.pvt, *.loc, *.scn*) needed to examine the model in the VDDT software.
- a PDF "Description Document" (*.PDF) describing the assumptions and documenting the results of each model.

Download the RA Data Files

1. Download the *RAModelReview* folder from www.landfire.gov (Under Activities—Vegetation Modeling—Model Review). Paste it onto your hard drive. (This folder contains background material, and is similar to the *RAModeling* folder referenced in the *RA Modeling Manual),* and contains files necessary if you decide to perform your review using VDDT.) It contains:

   - 📂 *Definition Files* folder containing the five VDDT definition files needed to run all Rapid Assessment Reference Condition models in VDDT.
   - 📂 *Maps* folder contains maps showing every model zone's Mapzones and Sections. These maps will help you answer question #3 on the Model Review Form.
   - 📂 *RA Modeling Help* folder containing:
     - *Cheatsheet.pdf*: a step-by step cheatsheet to the RA modeling standards.
     - *Lumper-Splitter Personality Quiz.pdf*: a fun way to test your modeling tendencies.
     - *Modeling Exercise.pdf*: an exercise that will test your VDDT skills.
     - *RA Modeling Manual v2.0.pdf*: the complete modeling manual. Also available at www.landfire.gov/workshop.html.
     - *Worksheet.pdf*: a worksheet that will help you track inputs and outputs as you model in VDDT.
   - 📂 *VDDT Test* folder containing a sample VDDT model, used in the Modeling Exercise (above).
   - 📂 *WindowsTroubleshooting* folder containing files and instructions for troubleshooting errors and crashes in VDDT.
   - *Model Review Form.doc*: the form you will complete for each model you choose to review.
   - *Model Review Instructions.pdf*: a copy of this document is included in the folder.

Read Background Material
2. Read Chapters 1 and 2 in the *RA Modeling Manual v2.0* (Background and Potential Natural Vegetation Groups). This can be found in the *RA Modeling/RA Modeling Help* folder and is also available at www.landfire.gov/workshop.html.

3. Skim the rest of the *RA Modeling Manual* to become familiar with model capabilities and limitations.

Conduct your Review
4. Review the potential natural vegetation group (PNVG) Description Documents for the models. These can be found in folders named with the model code and are PDF documents.

5. Determine whether you are going to perform your review via interactively playing with the actual VDDT model (optional but preferred), or via review of PNVG descriptions.

6. If you decide to perform the review using VDDT, download the Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT) modeling software (www.essa.com). The software is free and you will find instructions for installing the software in Chapter 3 of the *RA Modeling Manual*. Chapter 4 of the *RA Modeling Manual v2.0* explains how to get started in VDDT. You may also want to do the Modeling Exercise (RAModeling/RA Modeling Help/Modeling Exercise.pdf) using the VDDT Test files.

7. If you decide to review the models using only the PNVG Description Documents, read each document carefully. Contact your regional lead if you would like more information about the model that isn't contained in the description document.

8. Complete the attached PNVG Model Review Form.
    *   Rank your knowledge for each PNVG reviewed, and document how your knowledge may vary geographically.
    *   Answer questions provided about the PNVG model inputs and description.
    *   Contact your regional lead if you have any questions or if the process needs clarification.

9. By your regional deadline (provided by your regional lead) submit your reviews for each PNVG electronically (email or CD) via the provided form to your regional lead.